

Interagency Wildfire Management Team  
Meeting Notes  
February 12, 2003

Gene Darling (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) is attempting to obtain funds for the helicopter that will be operational at TA-49 starting in mid-April. Gene also reported that the live fuel moistures have decreased to less than 100 percent.

Doug Tucker (Los Alamos County Fire Department) reported that the Santa Fe National Forest will begin burning up to 25 piles of slash per day in the Santa Fe Watershed. There are currently 200 to 250 piles that need to be burned. Doug also noted that 400 to 500 people attended the public meeting for the Los Alamos County Defensible Space Project. The project will begin thinning on Barranca Mesa and will thin approximately 900 acres throughout the Los Alamos area.

Jim Whittington (Bandelier National Monument) stated that 30 to 35 acres of piled thinning slash along Highway 4 have been burned. Jim also indicated that comments for the Bandelier Fire Management Plan will be accepted from the public and this public comment period will continue for the next two months.

Fran Talley (Public Affairs Office, LANL) provided an update on the Wildfire 2003 public meeting. This meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, April 5, at the United Church on 2525 Canyon Road in Los Alamos. The meeting will start with exhibits and displays at 5 PM and continue with presentations starting at 6 PM. Presentations will be given by the Nature Conservancy, Cerro Grande Rehabilitation Project, Bandelier National Monument and several agencies from Los Alamos County. The meeting will end with a question and answer period.

Randy Balice (Ecology Group, LANL) announced that the Seventh Symposium of Biological Research in the Jemez Mountains will be held at the College of Santa Fe, Forum Auditorium, from 8:30 to 4:30 on Thursday, February 27. This symposium will feature several presentations on fire hazards and other issues related to wildfires. Contact Stephen Fettig (672-3861 x546) for further information. Randy also reported that he and Neil Cobb of Northern Arizona University will host a meeting to discuss mortality in piñon-juniper ecosystems of the Southwest on March 3 and on the morning of March 4. The meeting will be held at the Ecology Group's upstairs Conference Room. Contact Randy (665-1270) for further information.

Elmer Torres (Community Relations, LANL) noted that no formal agreement exists between LANL, the Los Alamos County and the San Ildefonso Pueblo to accommodate emergency access to Guaje Canyon for evacuation purposes.

Rob Farris (Fire Protection Group, LANL) has been conducting wildfire assessments of facilities at LANL.

Bill Gall (Los Alamos Area Organization, DOE) stated that evacuation plans should be developed for a wide variety of emergencies, not just wildfires.

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, February 26, at TA-21, Building 210 in the RRES-ECO Conference Room (142). The IWMT meets every other week and these meetings are open to the public. Contact Randy Balice (balice@lanl.gov, 665-1270) for further information, or to get on the distribution list for these meeting notes.